REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application after this amendment adds new claims 11-13. Claims 1, 4, and 6 have been amended to correct typographic errors and/or to clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention. The amendments are supported throughout the specification and figures. No new matter is added by amendments and new claims, which find support throughout the specification and figures. In particular, the amendments and new claims find support in figures 7 and 8 and in the Specification at page 6, lines 11-14. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by United States Patent No. 6,452,460 to Oda (hereinafter referred to as Oda) in view of United States Patent No. 4,167,686 to Fukuyo (hereinafter referred to as Fukuyo) and United States Patent No. 6,859,116 to Nishimura (hereinafter referred to as Nishimura). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 relates to a crystal unit that includes, *inter alia*, a crystal blank provided with a pair of excitation electrodes and a pair of extension electrodes extended from the excitation electrodes. The crystal blank of claim 1 includes a first principal surface and a second principal surface and an inclined surface formed at one end of the first principal surface. The first principal surface and the second principal surface are flat-shaped and parallel to each other. In amended claim 1, ***one of the excitation electrodes is arranged on the first principal surface and the other of the excitation electrodes is arranged on the second principal surface opposite the one of the excitation electrodes arranged on the first principal surface***. Also in amended claim 1, ***the excitation electrodes are parallel to each other.***

According to the present invention, when the crystal blank is fixed to the mounting member, the flat area of the crystal blank contacts the conductive material represented by the conductive adhesive. This allows pressing conditions such as the pressing force and pressing direction of a pressure applied to the crystal blank and conductive material to be controlled so that they are kept constant, and the crystal blank can be held uniformly and the quality of the finished crystal unit can also be stabilized. It further prevents a conductive adhesive or the like from wrapping around up to the vibration area of the crystal blank and keeps the vibration characteristic satisfactorily.

The Office Action admits that Oda does not disclose first and second principal surfaces in which an inclined surface is formed at one end of said first principal surface, and in which the second principal surface is flat-shaped. (Office Action; page 2, line 18 to page 3, line 2). The Office Action asserts that these features are disclosed in Fukuya. Without admitting the veracity of this assertion, Applicants respectfully submit that Fukuya does not disclose or suggest the feature of amended claim 1 that one of the excitation electrodes is arranged on the first principal surface and the other of the excitation electrodes is arranged on the second principal surface opposite the one of the excitation electrodes arranged on the first principal surface. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Furthermore, none of the references disclose or suggest that the excitation electrodes are on opposite, parallel surfaces and are parallel to each other. Therefore, since none of the references disclose or suggest this feature, the combination of the references does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Claims 2, 3, and 7-10 depend on claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 4-6 are being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oda in view of Fukuyo and Nishimura and further in view of United States Patent No.5 ,585,687 to Wakabayashi. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The addition of the Wakabayashi reference fails to cure the deficiency discussed above as regards the previously cited references as applied against claim 1. Therefore, claims 4-6, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable.

Additionally, claim 5 recites that the inclined surfaces are different from each other in size at the respective ends and the extension electrodes are extended toward the greater inclined surface. The Examiner asserts that this feature is disclosed in Wakabayashi. However, the cited sections do not disclose or suggest inclined surfaces of different sizes, nor more particularly, do they do not disclose or suggest that extension electrodes extend toward the greater inclined surface. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references disclose or suggest this feature, and therefore the combination of the references does not render claim 5 unpatentable.

New claims 11-13 depend on claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is allowable. Additionally, new claim 13 recites that the spacing between the excitation electrodes is uniform. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose or suggest this feature.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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